

Denver Federal Center Landfill Cap Project

WHAT: The Denver Federal Center (DFC) is a federal government facility operated by the General Services Administration (GSA) that is currently used by multiple federal agencies for a variety of purposes, including office space, laboratories, materials testing and storage, and maintenance facilities. Formerly, this facility was the site of the Denver Ordnance Plant (DOP), a munitions manufacturing and storage plant operated during World War II. Past industrial activities at the DFC have resulted in areas of soil contamination that require remedial action.

The Landfill Cap Project is a remediation project located on federal government property in the northwest corner of the DFC, between 4th Avenue and 6th Avenue and east of Union Boulevard. The area lies between the two RTD light-rail lines on the north side of 4th Avenue and is currently vacant land.

WHO: The General Services Administration (GSA) is responsible for the placement of a cap over an area historically used to burn materials. This work is being done under the oversight of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (Colorado Health Department).

STATUS: GSA conducted a comprehensive environmental review and analysis leading to remedial action for this site. A risk evaluation identified places within the area to be covered by the landfill cap where the levels of contamination in surface and/or sub-surface soil would pose an unacceptable risk to human health if the property were to hypothetically be used for residential and recreational purposes. The primary contaminants of concern are asbestos in soils, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, lead, and pesticides in soils.

The contaminated soils have previously been covered, but actual design and thickness of the cover was never documented so the level of protectiveness cannot be assured. In order to ensure the contaminated soil remains covered in the future, the Colorado Health Department required GSA to design and construct an additional cover for the area. The cover will consist of an orange nylon fabric (similar to a thick blanket) placed on the existing ground surface and then 12-inches of clean fill. The fabric provides a clean working surface and will act as a marker that future owners of the property can use to distinguish between clean cover soil and underlying potentially contaminated soil. The 12-inches of soil will act a barrier between humans and the contamination and allow for growth of grass to protect the cover from erosion. Construction of the soil portion of the cap will require importation of clean fill material from an off-site source.

WHEN: The Landfill Cap Project will start on June 30, 2014 and the main construction activities are anticipated to be complete by the end of the summer of 2014. Other activities such as seeding and establishing the vegetative cover will be ongoing for several years.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE: Clean fill dirt will be brought to the Landfill Cap Project site in large tractor-trailer dump trucks. Approximately four trucks per hour between the times of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. will arrive from the west and exit 6th Avenue to head south on Union Boulevard. The trucks will turn left onto 4th Avenue north of the Sheridan Hotel complex. The trucks will enter the project site, dump their loads and proceed to 6th Avenue west via 4th Avenue and Union Boulevard.



The contractor will use extensive dust control mitigation measures throughout the project. Each dump truck will have covers over their load beds to minimize releasing dust during transport and the project team will use a water misting technique at the off-loading area. Attention will be given to reducing the amount of dirt tracked from the site, and regular road sweeping will take place to minimize dust and mud.

The contractor will be using heavy equipment for laying down a fabric over which 12-inches of clean fill dirt will be placed. Bulldozers will be used to spread and compact the soils to create the cap. Once the landfill cap has been placed, it will be seeded and watered to establish a vegetative cover.

CONTACT: Every effort has been made to minimize the effect of these activities to the public. GSA has developed a Communication Plan, a Transportation Plan, and an Emergency Response Plan. These plans can be reviewed by all interested parties by contacting the GSA/DFC Public Affairs Specialist Sally Mayberry at 303-236-2583.

Ms. Sally Mayberry is also your primary contact for questions and concerns that may arise during implementation of the project. She will ensure that the appropriate personnel from the GSA and/or Colorado Health Department are made aware of your question or concern.

GSA will provide you with updates if conditions change or the schedule of work or scope of construction traffic is different than described above.